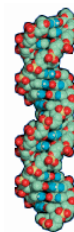


**Customer Case Study:
HIPAA Security Assessment**



The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a comprehensive law intended to reform the availability and delivery of healthcare within the United States.

Title II: Administrative Simplification of the HIPAA Act requires covered entities to enact standardized security controls that protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of electronic patient healthcare information (ePHI) in its possession.

The HIPAA security regulations or 'standardized controls' were finalized in February 2003 and most covered entities have until April 21, 2005, to be in compliance.

Situation

In preparation for the April deadline, a large public Healthcare Provider turned to Plexent to conduct a HIPAA security assessment of their information technology (IT) infrastructure.

Why Plexent

The Healthcare Provider was impressed with Plexent's ability to provide a proven, standards-based methodology and the personnel resources necessary to deliver an accurate, effective and affordable HIPAA-based security assessment.

itDNA™ Opportunity

Plexent's expanded security service offerings are based upon the Security Management concepts outlined by the Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL®) and the ISO/IEC 17799:2000 Standard.

The Plexent, itDNA™ Security offerings are delivered by experienced professionals that have achieved the industry's highest levels of certification including CISSP, CISA and ITIL.

General Enterprise Security Assessment (GESA)

The Plexent GESA process examines six key components of the IT environment:

- Security Administration
- Security Architecture
- Host System Security
- Workstation Security
- Wireless Networking
- Physical Security

HIPAA Focus

Throughout the execution of the GESA, special attention is given to the three key areas of 'standardized controls' as defined by the HIPAA Security Regulation.

- Administrative Safeguards
- Physical Safeguards
- Technical Safeguards

Result

The Healthcare Provider was presented with a clear and concise picture of their current level of compliance to the HIPAA Security Controls. Compliance gaps were identified and recommendations were provided to improve the organization's overall information security posture.

The Healthcare Provider was able to leverage the assessment results and recommendations to resolve 90% of their HIPAA-compliance issues and initiate auditable project plans for the remediation of the remaining gaps prior to the April 21st deadline.